

Most people don't argue with gravity and step off a tall rooftop. And yet people think they can argue with God about how to get in to HIS kingdom. Truth is, if we want to get in to his kingdom we need to avoid four popular dead ends.

## Four Costly Dead Ends To God's Kingdom

*"When those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner." Matthew 20:10-11 (NIV)*

### Two Bookends Of Envy

**We Become \_\_\_\_\_ God's Grace**

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*Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23; Ephesians 1:3-14*

*"You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (GN)*

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)*

## Four Dead End Roads To God's Kingdom

Jesus said ... *"Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it."* Matthew 7:13-14 (GN)

**Dead End #1: The Highway Of \_\_\_\_\_**

*Matthew 5:20-48*

*"So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."  
Matthew 5:48 (CEV)*

**Dead End #2: The Highway Of \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:21 (NIV)*

*“Jesus said: I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think. The father went to the older son and said, ‘Go work in the vineyard today!’ His son told him that he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went. The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn’t go. Which one of the sons obeyed his father? ‘The older one,’ the chief priests and leaders answered. Then Jesus told them: You can be sure that tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will!” Matthew 21:28-31 (CEV)*

## **In The Kingdom Of God Talk Is Not It’s**

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### **Dead End #3: The Highway Of** \_\_\_\_\_

*“As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he taught the people in the towns and villages. Someone asked him, ‘Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?’ Jesus answered: Do all you can to go in by the narrow door! A lot of people will try to get in, but will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, you will be left standing outside. You will knock on the door and say, “Sir, open the door for us!” But the owner will answer, “I don’t know a thing about you!” Then you will start saying, “We dined with you, and you taught in our streets.” But he will say, ‘I really don’t know who you are!’ Get away from me, you evil people!” Luke 13:22-27 (CEV)*

### **Dead End #4: The Highway Of** \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 14:15-24

*“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”  
Hebrews 4:7 (NIV)*

*“There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.’ Jesus answered, ‘I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again.’ ‘How can a grown man be born again?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘He certainly cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time!’ ‘I am telling you the truth,’ replied Jesus, ‘that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again.” John 3:1-7 (GN)*

# Personal Study - Growth Homework

## GETTING STARTED

When it comes to trips who's the navigator in your family? Who's more likely to get lost and not get lost? Who will most likely not consult a map or stop and ask for help until you've wasted a lot of gas and time?

## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

This weekend we found that living by merit not only produces envy but brings with it two dangerous bookends. One is being spiteful of God's grace ... grumbling, complaining and criticizing God. The other is being spiritually irresponsible ... taking advantage of God's mercy and grace – thinking it is something for nothing. We know salvation is a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9) – we don't and can't work for it but scripture is clear God's grace is not something for nothing. God gives us an outrageous deal (Eph. 1:3-14) for a ridiculously small amount given on our part.

Which of these 2 bookends do you think is most popular and why are these two so easy to slip into? How do people, including Christ Followers, take advantage of and presume on God's grace?

Take a look at the scriptures below. What does God expect us to do in this incredible deal? What is the "work" in his vineyard – what does that mean for us today – what is it we are supposed to do?

*Matthew 25:14-30*

*Romans 12:1-2*

*Luke 9:23*

*John 15:1-7*

## GOING DEEPER

The four dead ends we looked at this weekend have serious and eternal consequences for those who don't know God personally. Which of the four do you think is the most popular highway today?

Even though Christ followers have eternal life they can get side tracked on to one or more of these dead end roads. Take some time to talk about how we can know when we've been side tracked or detoured onto one of these highways. What effect do these highways have in the life the Christ follower and their personal relationship with God?

## **HIGHWAY OF MORALITY**

How do we get sidetracked or caught up in the "Highway of Morality?" What is our life focused on and what is the result or product?

Although morality is good, how is the "Highway of Morality" (God grades on a curve) a dead end for believers – what does it lead to?

## **HIGHWAY OF GOD TALK LANE**

Why is "God Talk Lane" or good intentions so popular for believers? What is our life focused on and what is the result or product when we travel down "God Talk Lane?"

## **HIGHWAY OF HERITAGE**

What happens when we get sidetracked onto this road in our life? What are we most concerned about and why is this displeasing to God? How can this be an issue for churches and what is the result when churches get sidetracked on the highway of heritage - living in the past?

## **HIGHWAY OF PROCRASTINATION**

This hits all of us. Why do we procrastinate – why we think what's missing in our life (see Luke 9:23-24 & 1 John 5:2-3) and how is procrastination presuming on God's kindness, mercy & grace?

What is God telling you from this study?  
What is the personal application for your life?